

The type is an example collected by Mr. H. Whitely, junr., at Huasampilla, at an elevation of about 10,000 feet, north-east of Cuzco, on the eastern slopes of the Andes, in July 1871, and was formerly in the collection of Dr. P. L. Selater (B.M. reg. no. 86/9/15/399).

The measurements are as follows :—Wing 134, tail 150, tarsus 37, culmen 25 mm.

There are three other examples of the subspecies, all taken by Whitely at the same locality between October 1870 and March 1872, now in the Museum collection. None of the examples are sexed by the collector, but probably there is no marked difference in this respect. They were referred to *C. viridicyanea* by Messrs. P. L. Selater and Salvin (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 185).

The type of *C. v. viridicyanea* was obtained by d'Orbigny, the French traveller, also on the eastern slopes of the Cordillera, but some 500 miles farther south, to the east of La Paz in Bolivia. It is figured by d'Orbigny (Voy. Am. Mérid., Ois. 1844, pl. 53, fig. 1), and is represented in the British Museum collection by examples obtained by the late Charles Buckley and P. O. Simons in the same district to the east of La Paz.

The Plate illustrates the two subspecies, the typical form being figured in the background.

XXVI.—Notes on the Ornithology of Malta.

By G. DESPOTT, M.B.O.U.

[Concluded from p. 349.]

117. (148) *Micropus melba melba* (L.). The Alpine Swift.
Local name: *Rundun ta zakku bajda*.

Both Schembri and Wright say that this species is not as common as its congener the Common Swift, and that it arrives here in April and September, but does not remain long in these islands. According to my own observations I can say that the species is rare, though occasionally it has

appeared in fairly good numbers ; it occurs in April and September, but is more frequent during the former month.

148. (146) *Micropus apus apus* (L.). The Swift.

Local name : *Rundun*.

Occurs in considerable numbers during both seasons. It generally makes its appearance in April, and is to be met with until August. In September fresh arrivals are noticed, but, as Wright remarks, it disappears as autumn advances. I have seen, however, individuals even late in November, and in 1910 I observed two specimens in the middle of January. During the spring it seems to be confined to the southern parts of the islands, where it breeds in the inaccessible cliffs overhanging the sea on that side.

149. (147) *Micropus murinus murinus* (Brehm). The Pallid Swift.

Local name : *Rundun second*.

This species was reported for the first time amongst the birds of Malta by Wright, who, in the fifth appendix to his list of Maltese Birds, says that undoubted examples of this Swift were taken in Malta in May 1874, and he mentions a specimen procured in the market on the 18th of the month by Capt. Feilden, and another obtained by himself at the Salina on the 27th of the same month ; he also says that on one occasion he killed several out of a large flock during August at Fort Manoel. I have met with the species three times, in May, June, and September ; and though I consider it rare, I also think that it may have been overlooked. The local name was given to it by the late Prof. Tagliaferro, and it indicates its somewhat small size.

150. (149) *Caprimulgus europæus europæus* L. The Nightjar.

Local name : *Bukrajk*.

Occurs on migration during both seasons, when great numbers are slaughtered and brought into the market. During the spring the first arrivals are generally noticed

at the end of February, and specimens are to be met with until the end of May. In the autumn they begin to arrive in September and continue to do so until the end of October, and sometimes even late in November the birds are still to be seen. I have seen specimens taken in December, but I consider such an occurrence as quite occasional and rare.

151. (151) *Caprimulgus ægyptius ægyptius* Licht. The Egyptian Nightjar.

Local name: *Bukrajk abjad*.

Giglioli reports three specimens taken in these islands. According to Count Arrigoni these were obtained in the spring of 1876, two of them being in the Valletta Museum and the other in the Museum at Florence. Besides these I know of several other specimens taken in Malta, but I never handled one in the flesh before the spring of 1916, when I obtained two in the Valletta Market; about one of these I published a note in the 'Zoologist' of the 15th May, 1916. Of the two specimens sent to me by Dr. G. Cachia Zammit in the spring of 1911, only the wings had been saved; the rest was consigned to the pot.

152. (150) *Caprimulgus ruficollis desertorum* Erl. The Algerian Red-necked Nightjar.

Local name: *Bukrajk ahmar*.

Wright records two specimens taken in the island; the first was shot at Imtahleb at the end of May 1860; the second on the 12th of May, 1865. Mackay mentions two specimens seen by him in Mr. Micallef's collection about twenty years ago; the way, however, Mackay puts his statement makes me doubt much whether the birds seen by him really belong to this species. I have never met with the species myself, and have, moreover, been assured that four specimens which were picked up in the Valletta Market in 1908 by Mr. Micallef were imported, together with other game, from the north-east of Africa. The local name is the one by which Mr. Micallef called his specimens.

153. (156) *Merops apiaster* L. The Bee-eater.

Local name: *Kird in-nahal*.

Occurs on passage during the spring and autumn; it is, however, more common during the former season, and in the latter it is generally scarce. I have seen large flocks of these birds passing very high and apparently without alighting. Schembri states that, according to Dr. Pisani, Chief Medical Officer in Gozo, the Bee-eater has been known to nest at the "Ramla"—a sandy bay of that island. Wright repeats the statement. I think, however, that there is need of further evidence.

154. (157) *Merops persicus* Pall. The Blue-cheeked Bee-eater.

Local name: *Kird in-nahal rar*.

Schembri records the occurrence of two specimens in September 1840, and Wright, in the fifth appendix to his list of Maltese Birds, records another killed at the end of May 1871 at the Inquisitor's Palace by F. Camilleri. It is, of course, difficult to state with certainty whether these specimens belonged to the Persian race or the Sahara form, though very probably they belonged to the latter. The local name appears in Giglioli's 'Avifauna Italica,' where the date of the occurrence recorded by Wright is the 25th of May, 1861, and that for Schembri's is September 1846.

155. (158) *Upupa epops epops* L. The Hoopoe.

Local name: *Dakkuka*.

Occurs on passage during both seasons; it is, however, much more abundant during the spring, when the first arrivals are noticed by the middle of February; in the autumn it generally begins to be seen by the first or second week of August. Great numbers are taken, especially during the former season, and many are brought over into the market, where they are sold as an article of food. The local name, "*Dakkuka tal pinnac*," is also given to the Hoopoe. The simple name "*Dakkuka*" is, however, in more common use.

156. (155) *Coracias garrulus garrulus* L. The Roller.

Local name : *Farrug*.

Like the Bee-eater this species occurs on migration during both seasons, and is also more common during the spring. From my own experience I should say that during the autumn it is rather scarce. Schembri states that it is said that in the spring of 1843 a pair of these birds nested in a ruined house in Zurrico. This, however, is evidently in need of confirmation ; moreover, Schembri does not give the source of his statement. Besides the name given above, "*Karnanklic*" and "*Tajra Cahla*" are also used. "*Farrug*," however, is the more common.

157. (154) *Alcedo ispida ispida* L. The Kingfisher.

Local name : *Ghasfur ta San Martin*.

According to Schembri, this species makes its appearance here in August and September, disappearing entirely in November. He also says that this bird, though rarely, sometimes breeds with us. This last statement seems to have been copied by Wright, who records a specimen killed on the 14th of March, 1862. As regards the breeding of the species in Malta, further evidence is required. I can add that, besides the months mentioned by Schembri and Wright, I have met with it also in February, May, November, and December. It also seems that in some years it occurs in fairly good numbers, while in others it is very scarce.

158. (152) *Picus viridis viridis* L. The Green Woodpecker.

Local name : *Bulbbiet ahdar*.

In May 1903 a specimen was shot in the neighbourhood of Birzebbugia by Lorenzo Zammit, a lad from the locality. Unfortunately it was consigned to the pot. The head and wings, however, which were quite enough for the identification of the species, were nailed to a door. In our Natural History Museum there is a specimen which bears neither date nor locality, though it is said

to have been taken in the island. The local name was suggested by the Hon. Dr. Magro.

159. (153) *Iynx torquilla torquilla* L. The Wryneck.

Local name: *Sultan is summien*.

Very common, occurring on migration during the spring and autumn. In the former season it is generally seen as early as the first or second week of February, and is to be met with till the middle or end of May. In the latter it arrives towards the beginning of September and lingers till the beginning of November, and sometimes even later. Great numbers of these birds are to be seen during the spring in the Valletta Market, where they are sold, together with others, for food. Besides the local name given, this bird is also known as "*Bulibbiet*." This, however, appears to be seldom used at the present time.

160. (159) *Cuculus canorus canorus* L. The Cuckoo.

Local name: *Sultan il gamien*.

A pretty common visitor during the spring and autumn. It is more common, however, in the former season, when it commences to arrive towards April and is to be met with till the middle of the following month. In autumn it is generally seen by the middle of September, though I have met with individuals as early as the first week of August or the end of July. Besides the local name above given, which is undoubtedly the more common, the bird is also known by the name of *Dakkuka calha* or *Cuccu*.

161. (160) *Clamator glandarius* (L.). The Great Spotted Cuckoo.

Local name: *Sultan il gamiem tat-toppu*.

Schembri records a specimen captured in April 1845, and another seen at Casal Lia at the same time. Wright says that he knew of three specimens shot in Malta in May 1854, and in the fifth appendix to his list he records

a specimen obtained by him in the market on the 18th of April, 1867. I have never met with the species in these islands, and the only example which I know is the one in the University Museum, and this, as with the majority of the older specimens, bears neither date nor locality.

162. (164) *Bubo bubo bubo* (L.). The Eagle-Owl.

Local name : *Cocca imperiali*.

I have seen a stuffed specimen in Schembri's collection at San Giorgio a Mare, and there is also another one in the University Museum ; neither of these, however, bears any date or locality. I have been assured, however, that the species has occurred in the island and was known by the local name given above. Capt. A. V. Falzon, Sant Manduca, assures me that some time ago he shot a large Owl at Pembroke (Malta), and according to his description of the bird I cannot ascribe the individual except to this species. In Giglioli's *Avifauna* the local name *Ommis subien* is given ; this name, however, is already applied to the Short-eared Owl. For the occurrence of this species in Malta further evidence is desired.

163. (163) *Otus scops scops* (L.). The Scops Owl.

Local name : *Cocca*.

This is one of our common birds which occurs on passage during both seasons. In the autumn the first arrivals are generally noticed by the first or second week of October, and in the spring they are frequently observed towards the beginning of February ; but, as I have often met with the species also in December and January, I am inclined to say that it may be considered as a partial resident too. So persecuted are these poor birds that few chances are given them to escape. They are slaughtered in great numbers during both the spring and autumn, and in the former season especially I have many times seen, in my visits to the Valletta Market, large heaps consisting of several hundreds of these birds.

164. (161) *Asio otus otus* (L.). The Long-eared Owl.

Local name : *Kattus*.

Wright says that, looking over some skins collected in Malta by Dr. Leith Adams, he observed one of these birds ticketed "Malta, 12th October, 1861." He also notes one in our Museum which he says was probably taken in Malta, though no locality is mentioned. In the first appendix to his list he records a specimen in his collection taken on the 17th of December, 1863, and in the fourth appendix he also says that during the last two years he observed several specimens in the market, and this both in the autumn and vernal periods of migration ; and, lastly, he records a live specimen seen by him on the 20th of October, 1869. I quite admit that the species is by no means frequent, but at the same time I wonder how Schembri did not meet with it. During the last ten years I have seen more than a dozen specimens, and have been assured that in 1890 the species occurred in pretty large numbers. The local name in Giglioli's Avifauna is *Omm is subien* for this species also ; so I prefer the one given above, which I have obtained from several sportsmen and which is almost the equivalent of one of the Italian names of the species, viz., "Testa di Gatto."

165. (162) *Asio flammeus flammeus* (Pontoppidan). The Short-eared Owl.

Local name : *Omm is subien*.

Pretty common on migration during both seasons and may be considered also a partial resident with us, as a few individuals are to be met with here from October to May. Both Schembri and Wright record the species as one which every now and then breeds in these islands, and this I was able to confirm on the 4th of May, 1906, when a nest containing a brood of five was found in the vicinity of Siggiewi ; subsequently on the 18th of May, 1909, I found a nest myself at Wied Znuber ; this contained a clutch of three eggs.

166. (165) *Carine noctua noctua* (Scop.). The Little Owl.
Local name : *Cocca rara*.

Schembri in his catalogue gives the Sparrow-Owl, saying it is very rare. Wright also reports the same species, adding, however, that though the specimens sent by Schembri to Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte were determined by the eminent naturalist, he could not help thinking that there must have been some confusion in the nomenclature and that the specimens were more probably *Athene noctua*, var. *meridionalis*. I have not seen any other specimen except the one in the University Museum, and this was taken by my friend Prof. R. Falzon, who recorded the occurrence in 'Il Naturalista Maltese' of 1890.

167. (164) *Tyto alba alba* (Scop.). The Common Barn-Owl.

Local name : *Barbagianni*.

This Owl was formerly very common and used to nest even in the old battlements surrounding the towns. It is now, however, one of our rarer birds, and if it were not for fresh arrivals from abroad the species would be extinct amongst us. The Barn-Owl is now protected, and it is hoped that our country-people will cease to persecute this bird, which is one of their best allies.

168. (186) *Falco peregrinus peregrinus* Tunst. The Peregrine Falcon.

Local name : *Bies prim*.

Schembri says that this species occurs in March and September, and also breeds with us. Wright reports it as occurring in spring and autumn, and occasionally in other seasons too—in fact, he records a female taken in a net on the 26th of December, 1860. He also states that these birds have been known to breed in the precipitous rocks of Malta and Gozo, and that for several years a pair nested in the inaccessible cliffs near Zurrico. In the second appendix to his list he records an individual obtained by him on the 4th of May, 1864; this he says seemed to

approach *Falco barbarus* (i. e., *F. p. pelegrinoides*) in the ruddy colouring of the under surface. My friend Colonel Francia assures me that nests of this Falcon have often been found at Tacenc (Gozo), and that eggs from this locality have been brought to him. It has now to be settled whether the specimens alluded to belong to this subspecies. There is no doubt, however, that the typical Peregrine occurs; in fact, I have a female in my collection which was sent to me in the flesh by my friend Mr. L. Cachia Zammit, who shot it in Weid il Buni in November 1915.

169. (187) *Falco peregrinus pelegrinoides* Temm. The Lesser Peregrine.

Local name : *Bies second*.

It seems that the majority of the birds taken in these islands and considered to be Peregrine Falcons are nothing but examples of the present species, and some netters and dealers seem to be also aware of the difference—so much so that they call the present species by the name which I have given above.

170. (185) *Falco cherrug cherrug* J. E. Gray. Saker.

Local name : *Seker*.

I have seen only two specimens of this species, obtained in the island. The first was taken in the autumn of 1901 in the neighbourhood of Wardia, and was mounted by Mr. Micallef, in whose collection it now is. The second was taken in the nets by Rosario Psaila in November 1908, in the vicinity of Birzebbugia. The local name *Seker* is given to several other species of the genus.

171. (189) *Falco biarmicus feldeggii* Schlegel. The Lanner.

Local name : *Bies rar*.

Recorded by Jaubert and Lapommeraye (Rich. Orn. Midi France, 1855, p. 55), who cite Malta as a locality, but do not state their authority. The local name for this species was suggested by the Hon. Dr. Magro.

172. (192) *Falco eleonoræ* Gené. Eleonoran Falcon.

Local name: *Falchett tar regina*.

Colonel Drummond-Hay shot a specimen in Malta, and this was recorded by Wright, who says that another specimen was taken alive on the 4th of May, 1864. Giglioli, very probably alluding to these specimens, states that the species has occurred in Malta at least twice. I have been informed by Mr. Micallef that he handled several specimens which very probably belonged to this species. I have not yet, however, succeeded in seeing an example, so that I consider the species rare and perhaps overlooked. The local name, *Falchett tar regina*, I obtained from Mr. Micallef.

173. (191) *Falco subbuteo subbuteo* L. The Hobby.

Local name: *Seker tal harmicka*.

More or less common during its migrations in spring and autumn. I quite agree, however, with Wright that it is much scarcer in some years than in others. I have several times been assured that the species breeds occasionally with us, and this I confirmed on the 12th of May, 1910, when I obtained a nest. As I often heard the local name "Pellegrin" applied to this bird, I am inclined to think that this is the species alluded to by several observers under the name of *Falco peregrinus*, which they say is here a common resident and breeds. In Giglioli's Avifauna the local name given is *Bies*. This name is, however, used for several species of the genus, and for this reason I have preferred the one which I have given.

174. (190) *Falco æsalon æsalon* Tunst. The Merlin.

Local name: *Seker ta denbu*.

Schembri says that this species is very common during the autumn, and Wright that it is not uncommon during both seasons and particularly in the autumn. From my own observations, however, I should say that the species is generally very scarce—in fact, I have only been able to obtain

one specimen, and have seen two or three others. The local name was obtained from the dealers on St. John's Square, the words *ta denbu* having been evidently added to distinguish it from others of the same genus which are called also by the name *Seker*.

175. (194) *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus* L. The Kestrel.
Local name : *Spanjulett*.

A common bird of passage during both seasons. A pair or two are often met with all the year round. It breeds here occasionally, and would do so more frequently if it were not so persistently persecuted. I have several times seen its nests taken from the cliff's overhanging the sea on the south of the island, but have not yet been able to confirm Schembri's and Wright's statement that it breeds in fortifications, though I quite believe that it did so when the number of sportsmen was not so great.

176. (195) *Falco naumanni naumanni* Fleisch. The Lesser Kestrel.

Local name : *Spanjulett second*.

According to Schembri, this species occurs on passage only in March and April; but Wright says it is not uncommon in April and May and that he obtained it during the autumn as well. I have never met with it during this season, but, though generally in small numbers, I have always observed it in the spring. I say generally, because I remember two or three seasons when it arrived in considerable numbers—it was very common, for instance, in May 1915. Giglioli gives the local names *Spanjulett* and *Sparvier*—the first is only generic, the second is unquestionably never given to this species at all.

177. *Falco vespertinus vespertinus* L. The Red-footed Falcon.

Local name : *Zumbrell*.

According to Schembri, this species arrives together with

its congeners, but occurs in much smaller numbers and not annually. Wright says that it visits us in the autumnal and vernal periods of migration, occurring, however, in much larger numbers during some years. I have met with it during both spring and autumn, but it is usually more common during the spring. I have often observed it passing in flocks consisting of more than a dozen or so; but I remember also a year or two when not a single specimen was seen. On the 27th of October, 1910, while I was at Binghisa, I saw a flock of these Hawks composed of not less than one hundred individuals. Besides the name given above, this bird is also known locally as *Spanjulett ichal* and *Vespertim*; the last of these appears, however, to have fallen into disuse.

178. *Aquila chrysaëtus chrysaëtus* (L.). The Golden Eagle.

Local name: *Ajcla reali*.

Two occurrences of this species are recorded, the first being a specimen taken in 1869, of which Wright secured the head and neck; the second is the one recorded by Wright in his fifth appendix, and which was shot in November 1873. Giglioli gives the Maltese name for this species simply as "*Aicla*"; this, however, besides being generic, is applied also to the Egyptian Vulture. The name given is the equivalent of the Italian.

179. (175) *Aquila pomarina* Brehm. The Lesser Spotted Eagle.

Local name: *Ajcla tat-ticchi*.

In 1911 I saw a specimen in Mr. Micallef's collection; this was shot by Capt. S. Stivala at Comino. I have been informed by Mr. Micallef that he saw a specimen ticketed "Malta, 1862." If this is not one of the birds given by Wright under the Latin name *Aquila navia*, then the specimens taken in Malta are three. Count Arrigoni also cites Malta as a locality where the species has occurred. The

local name appears to have been given by Mr. Micallef, from whom I heard it.

180. *Aquila heliaca* Savigny. The Imperial Eagle.

Local name: *Ajela imperiali*.

Reported by Schembri, on the authority of Dr. Grech Delicata, who is stated to have observed it in October 1842. Prof. Gulia says that he has been assured by Mr. L. Gouder that this Eagle has been met with several times at Gozo. Count Arrigoni is of opinion that the captures of Imperial Eagles mentioned by several authors (amongst which Schembri is included) are to be corrected, the specimens being only Golden Eagles. The Maltese name, which is equivalent to the English and Italian, is given in Gulia's 'Repertorio di Storia naturale.'

181. (178) *Haliastur indus* (Bodd.). Brahminy Kite.

Local name: *Astun rashu bajda*.

There exists a specimen in the University Museum which is unfortunately in a very bad state of preservation; this was taken in the vicinity of Siggiewi in 1896 by Mr. P. Mifsud Ellul, who presented it to Mr. Leach—at that time Curator of the Museum. The local name means White-headed Kite.

182. (179) *Circaetus gallicus* (Gmel.). The Short-toed Eagle.

Local name: *Ajela*.

Schembri says that this species is rather rare and does not occur annually, and that it generally appears in August and September. Wright, who also states that it is very rare, records a specimen killed in Gozo at the end of August 1857. This is very probably the specimen which is preserved in the Natural History Museum, and is unfortunately in a very bad condition. Besides this I have seen two mounted specimens in Mr. Micallef's collection, and a live one which was taken in the neighbourhood of Wardia during the first week of October 1914.

183. (174) *Buteo lagopus lagopus* (Brün.). The Rough-legged Buzzard.

Local name : *Cucciarda bil calzetti*.

According to Prof. Gulia this species was met with by Professors Zerafa and Greeh Delicata in 1843. Gulia also records a specimen killed in the neighbourhood of Zurricio in 1859; this is very probably the one which can be seen in the University Museum. In the summer of 1915 a specimen was shot in the neighbourhood of Birzebbugia. I was informed by Mr. Micallef that two or three specimens have been mounted by him, but these I have not seen.

184. (173) *Buteo buteo buteo* (L.). The Common Buzzard.

Local name : *Cucciarda prima*.

Giglioli gives the Maltese name for this species, and so Blasius includes it in his list of Maltese birds. On the 2nd of October, 1908, a specimen was shot in the vicinity of Zurricio by Pietro Darmanin (Tal meli) who sent it over to me. Besides this I have seen another specimen in the collection of Mr. Micallef, who informed me that he had handled one or two more of these birds, all of which occurred during the autumn months. The species is undoubtedly rare and quite occasional in its visits.

185. *Haliaëtus albicilla* (L.). The White-tailed Eagle.

Local name : *Ajcla bajda*.

Reported by Blasius, apparently for the sole reason that Giglioli gives the Maltese name. Consequently, I consider the species as one of doubtful occurrence.

186. (169) *Circus æruginosus* (L.). The Marsh-Harrier.

Local name : *Bughadam ahmar*.

Occurs on passage during both seasons, but is more common in the spring, when the first arrivals are noticed in March. The birds, however, continue to be observed until the middle and sometimes even the end of May.

During the autumn they are generally seen by the middle of September and continue their passage for about one month.

187. (170) *Circus pygargus* (L.). Montagu's Harrier.

Local name: *Bughadam*.

Both Schembri and Wright state that this Harrier occurs annually during both seasons, but is not so common as its congeners. I have met with it frequently during the spring; in the autumn, however, I only came across it once. Besides the local name given, Giglioli mentions another, *Bughadam abjad second*.

188. (172) *Circus cyaneus* (L.). The Hen-Harrier.

Local name: *Bughadam abjad prim*.

Generally occurring in pretty good numbers during the spring, a few being also met with during the autumn months. Wright states that, although he had examined as many as thirty females in one season, all exhibiting the white rump or having it very lightly spotted, he never met with an adult male.

189. (171) *Circus macrourus* (S. G. Gmel.). The Pallid Harrier.

Local name: *Bughadam abjad*.

No mention is made of this species in Schembri's catalogue, and it seems that it was first reported by Prof. Gulia in his 'Repertorio di Storia Naturale,' published in 1858-59. Wright says that it is perhaps the most common of the Maltese Harriers, and that it occurs during the same seasons, being, however, most abundant in April. I, too, have found it fairly common in some years during the spring, but have never yet seen it in the autumn. I remember also some years when not a single individual could be observed.

190. (180) *Astur palumbarius* (L.). The Goshawk.

Local name: *Bies tal hamiem*.

Schembri says that this species is occasionally met with

during the summer and autumn. Wright, however, states that he has never met with it. Mr. Micallef, who has handled about half a dozen of these birds, informed me that all were obtained during the spring. I have seen an individual in April and another in July. Giglioli gives the Maltese name *Seker* for this species, but the one given, which is an equivalent of the Latin and which I obtained from Mr. Micallef, is much more to the point. Besides, the local name *Seker* has already been given to another Hawk.

191. (181) *Accipiter nisus nisus* (L.). The Sparrow-Hawk.

Local name : *Sparvier*.

Both Schembri and Wright report this species as fairly common. The first says that it begins to arrive towards the commencement of autumn and continues to be met with throughout October ; the second says that it occurs on passage during both seasons, and is occasionally seen also during the summer months ; in October and November, he adds, it is met with more frequently. I have seen specimens taken during both the spring and autumn ; but, though the species appears to have been more common in the time of Schembri and Wright, at present it has undoubtedly become very scarce.

192. *Melierax gabor* (Daud.). The Gabar Goshawk.

Wright doubtfully reports this species on the authority of Mr. Hugh Strickland.

193. (182) *Milvus milvus* (L.). The Kite.

Local name : *Astun*.

According to Schembri the Kite is more frequent in Gozo than in Malta, though in neither of the islands can it be considered a common bird. He also says that several sportsmen from Gozo state that it breeds in the southern cliffs of that island during the month of May. Wright, who considers the species rare, says that he could not confirm the fact of its breeding in these islands. I have

seen only five specimens, all of which occurred in October 1904.

194. (183) *Milvus migrans migrans* (Bodd.). The Black Kite.

Local name : *Astun iswed*.

Schembri states that these birds, which he considers not common, occur on passage in April and September, when a few are annually taken. Wright calls the species very rare. In the fourth appendix to his list he records a specimen seen by him in the market on the 20th of September, 1864; and in the fifth appendix he mentions another, also seen by him in the market, on the 10th of September, 1872: the skin of this one, he says, was preserved. I have seen only three specimens. The first occurred in July 1896; the second in May 1913; and the third is in my collection, and was shot by my friend Prof. E. C. Vassallo, on the 27th of September of the same year.

195. (184) *Pernis apivorus apivorus* (L.). The Honey-Buzzard.

Local name : *Cucchiarda*.

Both Schembri and Wright say that this species is common on migration during both seasons, when flocks of six to a dozen are sometimes seen. I consider the species as one which is annually becoming scarcer—so much so, in fact, that during the last six years I have only been able to procure five examples, one of which was taken in September and the other four during the spring. During the month of May 1916 these birds appeared to be exceptionally common and continued to be observed till the second week of June.

196. (196) *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus* (L.). The Osprey.

Local name : *Arpa*.

No mention is made of this species in Schembri's catalogue. Wright, however, says that, though it is by no means common, it frequently shows itself in our creeks and harbours during its migrations in spring and autumn. In

the fifth appendix to his list of Malta birds he records a specimen seen by him in the market on the 1st of September, 1871, and another observed by him at the Salina on the 23rd of May, 1874. I have seen in all about ten or a dozen specimens, all of which occurred during the summer months; the earliest of these was seen on the 8th of June, and the latest was taken on the 25th of September. I was informed by Mr. Micallef that he has only once handled a specimen during the spring. I was told also by a husbandman from San Giorgio a Mare that he shot one in the spring of 1915; this, however, was taken from him by a sportsman in the locality, though it was intended as a present for me.

197. (167) *Gyps fulvus fulvus* (Hablizl). The Griffon-Vulture.

Local name: *Avultun prim.*

In the University Collection there is a specimen which was taken in Malta and about which Dr. J. Galizia published a note in 'Il Naturalista Maltese' of 1890.

198. (168) *Neophron percnopterus percnopterus* (L.). The Egyptian Vulture.

Local name: *Avultun.*

Occurs on passage during the autumn, but must be considered as one of our rare birds. I have not seen more than ten specimens taken in the island. The example in my collection was sent to me by my friend Mr. W. Vassallo from Gozo, where it was shot in the last week of September 1914. There is one in Col. Francia's collection which is in almost perfect white plumage; the bird, however, had undergone a moult whilst in confinement in the Colonel's garden.

199. (209) *Ciconia ciconia ciconia* (L.). The White Stork.

Local name: *Ciconja bajda.*

Schembri says that the first individual seen by him occurred in April 1840, and Wright records one shot on the 22nd of March, 1857, and two others sent to him by Capt. Carr, R.A., who had shot them on the 4th and 7th

of May, 1863. There are two specimens in the University Museum. One of these is very probably that mentioned by Wright; the other, as I have been told, was picked up in the market, where it was imported together with other game from the north coast of Africa. I know of another specimen in the possession of Mr. L. Naudi of Rabato (Malta), by whom it was mounted, and one or two in Col. Francia's collection. On the 10th of May, 1916, two specimens were shot in the neighbourhood of Birzebbugia by two countrymen — Lorenzo Zammit (Ciaprott) and Michele Bonnici (Tal Kerkni) by name. On the same day another of these birds was shot at Marsascirocco, and another three at Marfa which is just at the opposite end of Malta. My friend Prof. Vassallo procured for me one of these last three; another I was told was mounted by Mr. L. Naudi, and the third was consigned to the pot.

200. (210) *Ciconia nigra* (L.). The Black Stork.

Local name: *Ciconia sewda*.

Schembri says that this species is not so rare as the preceding, and that it occurs during the winter months, when some are taken almost every year. Wright, who considers the species rare, records three individuals which he saw alighting on some carob trees in St. Julian's Valley in April 1852, and another in his possession which was shot in May 1863; this is very probably the specimen which is preserved in the University Museum, though it bears neither locality nor date. I have not yet succeeded in meeting with the species, so that I consider it very rare. For both this and the foregoing, besides the local name given, Giglioli adds the Maltese name *Grua*. This is, however, undoubtedly given only to the Crane.

201. (211) *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia* L. The Spoonbill.

Local name: *Paletta*.

Schembri records two individuals seen by him at Marsascirocco on the 14th of October, 1839, and others taken

during the month of June in 1840 and 1842. Wright records one observed on Fort Manoel in May 1858, and the same, or perhaps another, shot a few days later at St. Paul's Bay, and another a few weeks later. Besides these, he also records three shot in Gozo in the spring of 1860, another at Marsascirocco in November of the same year, one of two more killed in May 1861, two in June 1862, and a young one which was in his possession and which was obtained at the Salina on the 21st of September, 1862. I know of one specimen which was taken in Malta—it was shot by M. G. Molieras at Marsascirocco in the spring of 1909; another was observed by me at the salt-pans of Birzebbugia in the summer of 1916.

202. (212) *Plegadis falcinellus falcinellus* (L.). The Glossy Ibis.

Local name: *Velleran*.

Schembri says that this species is very common during its migrations in March and September, and Wright considered it as a pretty regular visitor during both seasons, when it is usually seen in small flocks. From my own observation I should say that these birds are rather scarce, though they visit us regularly during both periods of migration. I have seen solitary individuals as early as the first week of April. In Gozo the species is known by the local name of *Serduk* or *Hasi tal bahar*, and on two or three occasions I have heard this name used in Malta as well.

203. (200) *Ardea cinerea* L. The Common Heron.

Local name: *Russett griz*.

Schembri says that this species, which he considers rather common, occurs on migration annually towards the end of autumn, and is to be met with till the middle of winter. Wright considers the species not uncommon during both the spring and autumn and that it is sometimes seen during the winter as well. At present it is undoubtedly one of our

scarce visitors, generally appearing both in autumn and spring. It is also known locally by the name of *Russett irmiédi*, which is practically the same as *Russett griz*. The Maltese name *Russett imperial*, which is given by several ornithologists, is apparently no longer in use.

204. (201) *Ardea purpurea purpurea* L. The Purple Heron.

Local name : *Russett*.

Schembri says this species is rather common, and that it appears during the winter and spring. Wright states that large flocks may be seen passing in spring and autumn, and that these often alight on the carob-trees and along the sea-shore. I consider it as generally very common during the period of both migrations. In the spring the first arrivals are noticed by the beginning of March; in the autumn they are to be seen by the middle of September and continue to pass till late in November. I noticed that during this season the individuals which visit us are mostly young birds of the year. Besides the local name given, we find in several other lists the name *Russett culur cannella*; this, however, appears to have dropped out of use.

205. (202) *Egretta alba alba* (L.). The Great White Heron.

Local name : *Russett imperial*.

Recorded by Schembri as rather rare, and not seen annually. I have never seen a specimen taken in these islands, and have heard only of one being shot during the last twenty years. The local name given by Schembri is *Quack abjad*, and Giglioli gives also *Ajrun abjad*. I find, however, that several sportsmen who state that they have observed the species know it by the local name given above. Besides this, the Maltese name *Quack* or *Kuakk* or *Cuacc* is intended for the Night-Heron, and *Ajrun*, as already stated, is given also to the Crane.

206. (203) *Egretta garzetta garzetta* (L.) The Little Egret.

Local name: *Agrett abjad*.

Schembri says that this species is very common in March and September. Wright, too, says it is common during both seasons, when large flocks are usually observed passing in company with the Purple Heron. At present it is unquestionably one of the rarer species which favour us with a visit at rather long and irregular intervals—in fact, I have not seen more than eight or nine examples in all. The bird is also known locally by the simple name of *Agrett*.

207. (204) *Ardeola ibis ibis* (L.). The Buff-backed Heron.

Local name: *Agrett isfar prim*.

Wright mentions the specimen preserved in the University Museum, and says that Schembri records the capture of two others. The local name was suggested by the late Prof. Tagliaferro.

208. (205) *Ardeola ralloides ralloides* (Scop.). The Squacco Heron.

Local name: *Agrett isfar*.

According to Schembri this species, which he considers as not very common, generally arrives here during the month of May. Wright states that he has met with it in June, and that it passes also in September. According to my observations it occurs on passage during both seasons, being common in some years, while in others it is very scarce. During the spring it makes its appearance in April, and is often to be met with even late in June. In the autumn the first arrivals are seen by the first or second week of September, and till the middle or end of October single individuals may sometimes be met with.

209. (206) *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax* (L.). The Night-Heron.

Local name: *Cuucca*.

Occurs on passage during both the spring and autumn,

when considerable numbers often pass, generally during the night. In the former season the species is often observed in the middle of March, and is to be met with till the end of May and sometimes even till the beginning of June. During the autumn I have often observed the first arrivals by the second or last week of August. The bulk of the birds, however, arrive late in the following month.

210. (207) *Ixobrychus minutus* (L.). The Little Bittern.

Local name: *Russett tas-sigiar*.

A common bird of passage during both seasons; it is more abundant, however, during the spring. During this season it likes to frequent the sulla and corn-fields, in the autumn it prefers to roost in the carob-trees: for this reason it is called both *Russett tas-sigiar* (Tree-Heron) and *Russett tas-silla* (Clover-Heron). The local name *Blongios*, given by Schembri, Wright, and several others, has evidently fallen into disuse.

211. (208) *Botaurus stellaris stellaris* (L.). The Bittern.

Local name: *Cappun imperial*.

In Schembri's time this species appears to have been on the increase, but Wright considers it rather scarce. At present it is unquestionably of rather rare occurrence—in fact, during the last ten years I have not seen a dozen specimens. I have three in my collection, all of which were taken during the spring, but Schembri says that their passage occurs during the winter months.

212. (213) *Phœnicopterus antiquorum* Temm. The Flamingo.

Local name: *Flamingu*.

Schembri says that a few individuals are seen almost annually during the month of June. Wright also states that it generally appears during this month, but considers it an accidental visitor; he records one shot in May 1860, a pair in the winter of 1867–68, a third on the 22nd of August, 1870, and a fourth seen flying over Floriana in April 1874. I have seen only two specimens—one was

shot in Marsascirocco in July 1909, the other at the Salina in June 1916. There is a specimen in the University Museum ; this, however, bears no date or locality. I know also of several other specimens mounted by Mr. Micallef ; these, however, were all imported birds which had died in captivity. In the fifth appendix to his list of Maltese birds, Wright records the capture of a specimen of *P. erythraeus* (= *P. minor*) at Marsascala by Capt. Azzopardi on the 27th or 28th of March, 1869, during a strong north-westerly gale.

213. (219) *Cygnus cygnus* (L.). The Whooper-Swan.

Local name : *Cinju*.

Schembri in a note at the end of his catalogue says that he has never seen the Swan in Malta, but that he heard from several persons that birds which are known by the local name of *Cin* or *Zin* make their appearance every now and then. Wright mentions the specimen in the University Museum, which was shot on the 27th of January, 1847, saying that it is the only one examined by him, though it had long been known that small flocks of Swans have been observed flying along the coast of these islands in stormy weather. I have not seen a specimen in the flesh myself, but I have been assured by Mr. Micallef that he mounted an example about eighteen years ago. In the fifth appendix to Wright's list of Maltese birds it is stated that the *Cygnus* alluded to in 'The Ibis' of 1864 was doubtless a young of *C. olor*. The local names *Czinna*, *Zinna*, *Cin*, and *Zin* have fallen into disuse, the one given above being that which is used by all the Maltese.

214. (218) *Cygnus olor* (Gm.). The Mute Swan.

Local name : *Cinju mutu*.

Wright reports the species in the third appendix to his list, saying that a flock was observed by him in Sliema Creek on the 23rd of December, 1865, and another was killed at the Salina on the 21st of the same month. The local name *Czinna bajda*, given by Giglioli and Blasius, is no longer

in use. The one given is that by which the species is at present locally known.

215. (214) *Anser anser* (L.). The Grey Lag-Goose.

Local name : *Wizza griza*.

This species appears to be recorded for the first time amongst our birds by Blasius. Giglioli gives the local name *Wizza selvaggia*. This is, however, already occupied by the Bean-Goose ; so that the name here given, which is nearly an equivalent of the English, is to be preferred. I have seen only one specimen and consider the species a mere straggler to our shores.

216. (216) *Anser albifrons* (Scop.). The White-fronted Goose.

Local name : *Wizza tal mas crabajda*.

Blasius reports this species in his list evidently for the sole reason of his having found the Maltese name in Giglioli's avifauna. And yet this is incorrect, as *Wizza bajda* means "White Goose," while the present species is not white at all. Consequently, the inclusion of the species amongst our avifauna might easily have been a mistake. On the 9th of January, 1914, however, I found five specimens in the market at Valletta ; these were shot the day before in the vicinity of Xrobb il Ghagin. Two of these birds were in a pretty good state ; the other two were much broken up ; while the fifth was in such a bad condition that it could not be preserved in any way. Of the four specimens mounted, a pair are in my private collection and a pair in the University Museum. The local name was suggested by the Hon. Dr. Magro, and is practically an equivalent of the English.

217. (215) *Anser fabalis fabalis* Lath. The Bean-Goose.

Local name : *Wizza salvaggia*.

Schembri reports the species as very rare, saying that it appears only during the winter. According to Wright, flocks of these Geese are sometimes seen passing along the coast

of these islands, especially in stormy weather. The first specimen which I came across was shot out of a flock of about forty individuals at "il Brolli," a locality in the vicinity of Birzebbugia, by a country-lad named Giovanni Bonnici (Tal Kerkni) in November 1909. I have a specimen in my collection which I picked up in the Valletta Market in the winter of 1913.

218. (217) *Alopochen ægyptiacus* (L.). The Egyptian Goose.

Local name: *Wizza tal' Egittu*.

On the 12th of March, 1914, Mr. Ch. Naudi was so kind as to send to me a specimen of this species, which was shot the day before at Baharicciaghac by Giuseppe Parnis, a farmer of Casal Gargur. The specimen did not show any sign of its having been kept in confinement, and on this point I have not the slightest doubt; it now forms part of my private collection. In the University Museum there is also a specimen, but this, as usual, bears neither date nor locality, and besides is in a very bad state of plumage, which adds much to the doubt of its having been really taken in a wild state.

219. (220) *Tadorna tadorna* (L.). The Common Sheld-Duck.

Local name: *Culuvert ta Barbarja*.

Schembri says that these birds occur on passage during the winter, especially in January, but not in any great numbers. Wright says that they are generally seen by the end of October or the beginning of November, and a few pass also throughout the winter months. From my observations I cannot but consider the species as scarce and irregular in its visits; of the eleven specimens which I have seen taken in these islands, one occurred in December, two in November, one in October, three in February, two in March, two in April, and one in May. Though the name *Culuvert* is given to the drake, the duck of the present species is called by that name as well.

220. (221) *Tadorna casarca* (Linn.). The Ruddy Sheld-Duck.

Local name : *Culuvert ta Barbarja ahmar*.

Wright records a specimen shot by Signor F. Borg. Giglioli mentions three specimens recorded by Wright, saying that only one date is given, namely, for that taken in December 1864. A specimen was brought into the Valletta Market in January 1911; this was, however, in such a bad condition that it could not be preserved. The local name is, like the English, an equivalent of the Latin.

221. (222) *Anas boschas boschas* L. The Mallard.

Local names : *Culuvert* ♂, *Borca* ♀.

Schembri says that this species is rather common along our coast during the winter; and Wright, who calls it not uncommon, says that it occurs in November and December, and appears again in March. From my personal experience I should say that, though a regular migrant during both spring and winter, it is a rather scarce bird. I have known individuals taken during the summer and autumn; in the former, however, its occurrence must be considered quite exceptional. Besides the name given above, *Culuvert prim* and *Borca prima* are also assigned to this species. I have seen several large flocks of these birds passing during stormy weather, and they apparently continue their way without alighting.

222. (223) *Anas strepera* L. The Gadwall.

Local name : *Culuvert second*.

Schembri says that the Gadwall is common here during the winter, and Wright states that it is only occasionally observed. According to my own observations it is by no means common: in fact, I have seen only three specimens in the flesh—the first was shot on the 4th of October, 1912, in the vicinity of St. Paul's Bay, the other two I found in the Valletta Market, on the 14th of January, 1913, and on the 3rd of February of the same year. Besides

these, however, I have seen several mounted examples in Mr. Micallef's and other collections, and, so far as I could make out, the majority were taken during the winter months.

223. (227) *Anas crecca crecca* (L.). The Teal.

Local name : *Sarsella*.

Fairly common at all seasons, but is more frequent during the winter and spring. I remember years when it appeared in rather large numbers, and I know others when it did not come at all. The male is also known locally as *Culuvertas'sarsella*, but the name here used is generally given to both sexes.

224. (228) *Anas formosa* (Georgi). The Baikal Teal.

Local name : *Brajmla tas Siberia*.

A specimen in my collection was shot at San Giorgio a Mare by Fedele Caruana, a farmer of that locality, on the 16th of April, 1912. Later on I came to know from Caruana that the example was in company of two others, which, from the description given me, appear to have been two females, while the one which was killed was the male. I mention this circumstance as it serves to clear away any doubt of the specimen in question having been an individual escaped from captivity, though I am sure that its excellent state of plumage is a quite ample proof that it was taken in an absolutely wild state.

225. (226) *Anas querquedula* L. The Garganey.

Local name : *Sarsella hamra*.

According to Schembri this species, which he considers common, occurs from April onwards. According to Wright it is not uncommon in spring and autumn, and is occasionally seen in the summer. I have met with it almost at all seasons, but it is only common during the spring.

226. (230) *Anas penelope* L. The Wigeon.

Local name : *Siljiun second*.

Schembri says that this species is rather common, and generally occurs on passage in December and January. Wright says that it is not uncommon in winter, and is

sometimes seen during the summer ; he records a specimen shot on the 8th of June. I have seen only seven specimens and these occurred in different months. I was informed that several were observed on the 11th of May, 1914, and many others about a week later ; in spite of this, from my own observations, I consider the species a scarce one. The adjective *second* has been added to the local name *Silfin*, at the suggestion of the Hon. Dr. Magro, to distinguish it from the Pintail, which is also known by the local name of *Silfin*.

227. (224) *Spatula clypeata* (L.). The Shoveler.

Local name : *Palettuna*.

Wright calls this species one of the commonest of the Maltese Ducks, occurring on passage from November to March. Though I have met with it several times, I cannot say that it is common, and I know years when not one specimen could be seen.

228. (225) *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (Ménétr.). The Marbled Duck.

Local name : *Brajmla ghedduna rkik*.

Wright records a specimen met with by him and Capt. Feilden in the Valletta Market on the 11th of May, 1874. This specimen, which, on dissection, proved to be a female, formed part of Captain Feilden's collection. The local name, which is an equivalent of the Latin, was given to the species by the Hon. Dr. Magro.

229. (229) *Dafila acuta* (L.). The Pintail.

Local name : *Silfin*.

Schembri says that this species is rather common and occurs, together with its congeners, during the winter. I think, however, that Wright is more correct in stating that it is occasionally seen during the winter, although I have met with it also at the beginning of spring.

230. (231) *Nyroca rufina* (Pall.). The Red-crested Pochard.

Local name : *Brajmla tal' toppu ahmar*.

Wright records a specimen taken on the 1st of September,

1861. I know of the occurrence of three other individuals, the first being the one which is preserved in the University Museum—this was shot at Marsascirocco in January 1892; the second was obtained in the Valletta Market on the 4th of April, 1904, the third was taken in December 1914, both these have also been preserved—I could not make out, however, where they are to be found at present. The local name was given to the species by the late Prof. Tagliaferro.

231. (232) *Nyroca ferina ferina* (L.). The Common Pochard.

Local name: *Brajmla hawra*.

Wright says that the first Maltese specimens he saw were a male and a female shot by him on Fort Manoel Island in November 1858; he records also one shot in Sliema Creek by Mr. Medlycott in December 1859, and states that from that year he met with a few individuals at the market annually. I have seen two or three specimens in the market; these, however, were imported with other game from Sicily, and I have not yet succeeded in seeing a locally taken one.

232. (235) *Nyroca nyroca* (Güldenst.). The White-eyed Pochard.

Local name: *Brajmla*.

Both Schembri and Wright say that this species is common—it is by no means so, however, at present; I know two or three seasons when it occurred in good numbers, but this is to be considered exceptional. The species is undoubtedly more frequent during the winter, though it is observed also during the autumn and spring.

233. (234) *Nyroca fuligula* (L.). The Tufted Duck.

Local name: *Brajmla tat-toppu*.

Schembri says that this Duck, which is met with always during the winter, is rare. Wright calls it very rare, and, in the fifth appendix to his list, he records a specimen noticed in the market by Capt. Feilden on the 19th of November,

1873. I have a specimen in my collection which was shot at Marsascirocco during the third week of March 1910.

234. (233) *Nyroca marila marila* (L.). The Scaup Duck.

Local name: *Brajmla rasha seuda*.

I observed a drake of this species on the shore below Fort St. Lucian in Marsascirocco harbour on the 26th of September, 1909. This species being so easy to identify, I include it without any hesitation in our list.

235. (236) *Glaucionetta clangula clangula* (L.). The Golden-eye.

Local name: *Brajmla talghain*.

A quite accidental visitor recorded by Wright, who mentions a female taken in December 1870. I saw a mounted specimen, which was killed on the 2nd of February, 1909. Blasius and Giglioli give the local name *Brajmla zghira*; that given here, however, which was suggested for the species by the Hon. Dr. Magro, is, in my opinion, much more to the point.

236. (237) *Erismatura leucocephala* (Scop.). The White-headed Duck.

Local name: *Brajmla rasha bajda*.

Wright records a specimen taken in January 1864. Blasius and Giglioli give the simple local name *Brajmla*; the one used here was given to the species by the Hon. Dr. Magro; it is simply, like the English, an equivalent of the Latin name.

237. (238) *Mergus merganser merganser* (L.). The Goosander.

Local name: *Serra prima*.

This species figures as one of doubtful occurrence in a list by Wright published in 1862, and was subsequently left out, as Wright himself says, for want of satisfactory proof. I have seen, however, a specimen mounted by Mr. L. Petroni of Paris; it was shot at Birzebbugia by Mr. L. Cachia Zammit in the winter of 1908.

In Giglioli's 'Avifauna Italica' the Maltese name for this species is *Margan*, which is undoubtedly an error—this name being applied by the Maltese only to the Cormorants. I obtained the name here used from Mr. Petroni and one or two sportsmen who had seen the specimen already mentioned.

238. (239) *Mergus serrator* L. The Red-breasted Merganser.

Local name: *Serra*.

This species occurs in pretty large numbers during some years, in others, however, it is not observed at all. It is met with more frequently during the winter, though I have seen it taken also in the autumn and at the beginning of spring. I have only met with one adult specimen; it was procured in the winter of 1906.

239. (240) *Mergus albellus* L. The Smew.

Local name: *Baghal tas-serra*.

Wright, in his general list, gives this species on the authority of Schembri, who says that it is not very common in these islands and generally appears during the winter months. In his first appendix, however, he states that, in January 1864, a number of these birds were driven on the island by the severity of the weather and he obtained an adult female and several young birds. In his fourth appendix he says that a fine adult male was obtained in the winter of 1868 and also two females. The above-mentioned adult male is still preserved in the University Museum. I have seen only three specimens in the flesh; they were shot at Ghain Tuffiha in the winter of 1910. Of these, two were mounted by me and now form part of my collection, the other was in such a bad condition that I could not manage to set it up.

240. (197) *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo* (L.). The Cormorant.

Local name: *Margan*.

Pretty frequent, especially during the winter, when a

pair or more often establish themselves in our harbours; individuals are at times observed also during the spring and autumn and occasionally during the summer.

241. *Phalacrocorax carbo subcormoranus* Brehm. The Lesser Cormorant.

Local name: *Margun second*.

This form is perhaps as frequent as the preceding. Of the two Cormorants in my collection one certainly belongs to it. The local name which I have given to it is the equivalent of the English.

242. *Phalacrocorax graculus graculus* (L.). The Shag.

The Shag has been reported for Malta by Mackay in his "Ornithological Notes from Malta," published in the 'Zoologist' of 1899, where he states that he handled one shot on the shore at Fort Manoel on the 12th of November, 1897; but as Mackay's notes are not always to be relied on, I give the present occurrence as one in need of further evidence.

243. (198) *Sula bassana* (L.). The Gannet.

Local name: *Sula*.

A very rare and irregular visitor—so much so, in fact, that I have seen only five locally taken specimens: the first was recorded by the late Prof. Tagliaferro in 'Il Naturalista Maltese' of 1892; the second was taken in the vicinity of Casal Dingli and mounted by Mr. Luigi Naudi; the third was taken on a hook in Marsascirocco harbour and presented to Mr. Degaetani; the fourth was shot in the same locality in October 1912 and now forms part of my collection; the last was shot on Gozo, and was mounted by the late Mr. Micallef, in 1913.

244. (199) *Pelecanus onocrotalus* L. The Pelican.

Local name: *Pellican*.

A very rare and irregular straggler. Schembri records the capture of two individuals—one taken by Signor Ellul in 1832, and the other on the 12th of November, 1841.

Wright says that a great many were driven on to the island during a violent gale from the north-east in 1848, and many were shot at Sliema, St. Julian's, and other places on the north coast; besides, he records one shot at Marsascirocco in July 1859, also several others, of which two or three were killed, in October and November 1861; one seen at the Marsa on the 10th of June, 1865, and another which seems to have been shot in Gozo and seen by him at the market on the 27th of October, 1872. There are two specimens in the University Museum; these bear neither date nor locality, though they might be two of those mentioned by Wright. Another specimen is in the collection of Mr. A. Cachia Zammit; this was shot at San Giorgio a Mare many years ago. Besides the local name given, in several lists we also find the name "*Sassla*," but this has fallen into disuse.

245. (328) *Hydrobates pelagicus* (L.). The Storm-Petrel.
Local name: *Canyiu ta Filfla*.

A pretty common and resident species, which breeds especially on the islet of Filfla. It was described as a distinct species by Schembri under the name *Thalassidroma melitensis*, because some differences which this ornithologist believed to have noticed in the specimens examined by him. Our birds, however, do not differ from those met with in other parts. It is a general belief here that this Petrel is found only on Filfla, and this erroneous statement has been copied in the 'Encyclopedia Britannica.'

246. (330) *Puffinus kuhli kuhli* (Boie). The Mediterranean Shearwater.

Local name: *Ciefa*.

This is also a practically resident and breeding species; it was once most abundant, but a continuous persecution has reduced its numbers so alarmingly that protection has had to be afforded to it. It breeds all along the southern cliffs of the Maltese islands, but Filfla is its chief nesting-station.

247. (329) *Puffinus puffinus yelkouan* (Acerbi). The Levantine Shearwater.

Local name: *Garnia*.

Like the preceding, this is also a resident and breeding species. It was never, however, as common, yet our wanton sportsmen have greatly interfered with its numbers. Though it breeds also on Filfla, it appears to do so more frequently all along the southern coasts of Malta and Gozo. It is also an earlier breeder than its congener.

248. (336) *Podiceps cristatus cristatus* (L.). The Great Crested Grebe.

Local name: *Blongiun prim*.

A fairly common visitor during the autumn; it is generally noticed by the middle of October and remains throughout the winter with us. I have seen it only occasionally during the last days of September. In the spring I have never observed it, though Wright says that it occurs on passage during that season.

249. (337) *Podiceps auritus* (L.). The Slavonian Grebe.

Local name: *Blongiun second*.

Schembri says that young individuals of this species are common here during the winter. Wright states that it is not very common. At present it is assuredly a rare winter visitor—so much so, in fact, that I have met with it only two or three times.

250. (338) *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis* Brehm. The Black-necked Grebe.

Local name: *Blongiun rar*.

This species is not reported either in Schembri's or Wright's catalogue. The latter, however, mentions the species in the second appendix to his list. I have seen only two specimens taken in the island—one was in Mr. Micallef's collection, the other was shot in Birzebbugia Bay on the 22nd of November, 1909, and now forms part of my collection. The local name was given to the species by the man who brought to me the last-mentioned specimen.

251. (339) *Podiceps fluviatilis fluviatilis* (Tunst.). The Little Grebe.

Local name : *Blongiun terz*.

Schembri says that young individuals of this species are common, but adult ones were never seen by him. According to Wright they are not uncommon about the end of August or beginning of September. From my own observations I can say that these birds are rather irregular in their visits to the islands, and of late they appear to have become remarkably scarce.

252. (335) *Colymbus stellatus* Poutoppidan. The Red-throated Diver.

Local name : *Bughaddasmtal maltemp*.

According to Schembri this species is very rarely seen during the winter, and he records two individuals seen by him in 1839 and 1841. Wright states that Dr. Gulia informed him of four specimens shot in Gozo by M. Barthélemy, of Marseilles, in the winter of 1858-9. I have a specimen in my collection which was taken in the winter of 1910. Both Schembri and Wright call this bird by the Maltese name, *Blongiun*. I think, however, that the one given, which I have taken from some sportsmen who saw the specimen in my collection, suits the species much better.

253. (243) *Columba palumbus palumbus* L. The Wood-Pigeon.

Local name : *Tudun*.

Schembri gives the species as occurring on passage in April, May, and September, without stating its frequency. According to Wright, it occurs also during those months and in November, but never in any great numbers. I consider it by no means common, solitary individuals occurring at times during the autumn and spring. The local name "*Tudun*" is given by some sportsmen to the following species as well.

254. (242) *Columba œnas* L. The Stock-Dove.

Local name: *Hamiema taz-zebbug*.

Occurs on passage during the spring and autumn, but appears to be more frequent during the latter season, though in neither is it to be considered a common bird. I have only a female in my collection, and have not yet succeeded in obtaining a male, though I have tried my best.

255. (241) *Columba livia livia* Gm. The Rock-Dove.

Local name: *Hamiema tal gebel*.

A resident and breeding species, which has been so persistently persecuted that, if it is not entirely exterminated, it has assuredly become very scarce—so much so, in fact, that I have not yet obtained one for my collection. According to Wright, it is also found on Filfla; there can be no doubt, however, that at present not a single individual of the species is to be found there. Along the southern coasts of the islands there are some Pigeons which breed in the crevices of the precipitous cliffs, but these are only escaped specimens of the various breeds of domestic Pigeons, which are also known locally by the name *Hamiema tal gebel*.

256. (244) *Streptopelia turtur turtur* (L.). The Turtle-Dove.

Local name: *Gamiema*.

Occurs on passage during both seasons, but is seen in great numbers only during the spring, when many are taken by the gun and in the clap-nets.

257. (245) *Pterocles arenarius* (Pall.). Black-bellied Sand-Grouse.

Local name: *Ganga ta Spanja*.

Of this species we have only two records: the first was a specimen taken in Gozo on the 9th of December, 1911, and now in Mr. Saliba's collection; the second one was also taken in that island, on the 11th of April, 1916, and now forms part of my collection. The local name apparently has

existed since the capture of the first specimen—in fact, I came to know of the bird by that name.

258. (246) *Pterocles alchata* (L.). Pintail Sand-Grouse.

Local name: *Ganga*.

Schembri records the capture of several of these birds at Marsascirocco, Marsa, and Comino in April 1843. I have seen a specimen in Mr. Micallef's collection which was taken in 1896, and I handled one in the flesh which was shot in the neighbourhood of Zurrigo in the summer of 1908; on several occasions recently these birds have been imported, so that I cannot take into account the three specimens which were obtained in that year.

259. (278) *Hæmatopus ostralegus ostralegus* L. The Oyster-catcher.

Local name: *Gallina tal bahar*.

A quite accidental visitor. Recorded by Schembri, who saw a specimen on the 11th of August, 1841, and two others in September and October of the following year. Wright states that these birds have been observed in April, August, September, October, and November, and records one seen on the 17th of April, 1854; another was killed in the summer of 1860, and a third on the 1st of April, 1861. I have not seen more than half a dozen individuals, all of which occurred during the summer months. The local name given by Schembri and several others is *Cavalier*; this, however, appears to have fallen into disuse, at least for the Oyster-catcher, though several people use it for the Black-winged Stilt.

260. (262) *Burhinus œdicnemus œdicnemus* (L.). The Stone-Curlew.

Local name: *Tellerita*.

Common during both seasons, and sometimes occurring in considerable numbers during the autumnal period of migration. It appears that the few individuals which arrive in the spring, if fortunate enough to escape the guns of our sportsmen, remain here to breed and do not depart before the middle of summer.

261. (264) *Cursorius gallicus gallicus* (Gm.). The Cream-coloured Courser.

Local name: *Nauchina*.

This is generally considered a species of rare and irregular occurrence in these islands. Of late years it appears to have become more frequent. I have seen individuals taken during almost every month of the year. Wright says that it is known locally by the name *Pluviera ta l'Inghilterra*, but this name is no longer in use, and all our sportsmen know it by that given above.

262. (263) *Glaucopis pratensis pratensis* (L.). The Pratincole.

Local name: *Perniciotta*.

In Schembri's time the Pratincole seems to have been common during its migrations in March and September; and Wright says that it is an annual visitor in March, April, May, August, and September, and that during some years it is common. At present it must be considered as a mere straggler, and I remember several years when not a single specimen could be seen.

263. (272) *Charadrius morinellus* L. The Dotterel.

Local name: *Birwina*.

A regular bird of passage, the Dotterel is generally seen towards the end of summer, though the bulk of the birds, however, are only with us late in the autumn; during the winter we often have new arrivals, and sometimes these are also noticed towards the beginning of spring. Besides the local name above given, the species is also known by the name of *Seconda* or *Mezza Pluviera*, this last being used more commonly in Gozo; the name *Birwina* is without doubt in more common use.

264. (268) *Charadrius asiaticus* Pall. The Caspian Plover.

Local name: *Birwina seconda*.

On the 26th of March, 1911, I found a specimen in the Valletta Market; it was shot at the Marsa two days before; this individual is an immature specimen, and it now forms

part of my private collection. The local name is the one used by the dealer from whom I bought the specimen.

265. (270) *Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula* L. The Ringed Plover.

Local name: *Monachella prima*.

Both Schembri and Wright say that this species is common during spring and autumn. I have met with only two specimens; these were taken during the spring, and both were presented to me as birds of unusual occurrence, so that I am quite justified in considering the species rare.

266. (271) *Charadrius dubius* Scop. The Little Ringed Plover.

Local name: *Monachella*.

Fairly common during both passage-seasons, but especially during the spring. Schembri compares its frequency to that of the foregoing species, from which it seems that, in his times, the Ringed Plover was common too.

267. (269) *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus* L. The Kentish Plover.

Local name: *Monachella ingliza*.

No mention is made by Schembri of this species. Wright, however, records several specimens shot by him in 1853. I have seen only two specimens, but in spite of this I feel inclined to share Wright's opinion, that owing to its likeness to *C. dubius* this species might very easily be overlooked.

268. (265) *Charadrius apicarius* L. The Golden Plover.

Local name: *Pluviera*.

This Plover visits us regularly during the autumn, and is to be met with throughout the winter; during some years it occurs in considerable numbers, and a good many are taken. On the approach of spring the greater part leaves us. I have met with it only once in the full plumage, and the specimen was looked upon by all who saw it as belonging to some species hitherto unknown here.

269. (266) *Charadrius dominicus fulvus* Gm. The Asiatic Golden Plover.

Local name: *Pluviera seconda*.

This species is undoubtedly rare, but might also be very easily overlooked. It is not included in Schembri's catalogue. Wright records it both in his list of 1864 and in one of his appendices. I have found it twice in the Valletta Market, and poulterers assured me that these birds are not so rare as I thought them to be. The local name is the equivalent of the English "Lesser Golden Plover."

270. (267) *Squatarola squatarola* (L.). The Grey Plover.

Local name: *Pluviera pasturda*.

Met with during the spring and autumn, and sometimes during the winter too; it is usually, however, very scarce, though I remember years when it arrived in fairly good numbers, and this was always during the spring.

271. (273) *Hoplopterus spinosus* (L.). The Spur-winged Plover.

Local name: *Pluviera bli xpinu*.

In the third appendix to his list, Wright records the capture of a specimen in October 1865. It was in company with another individual which escaped; the specimen was secured by Wright for his collection. The name given has been suggested by Mr. Jos. Zammit, and it is practically a translation of both the Latin and English names.

272. (274) *Chettusia gregaria* (Pall.). The Sociable Plover.

Local name: *Pluviera inglizu*.

I have seen a wounded individual which lived for some time in the possession of the late Rt. Rev. Monsgr. Marmarà; it was shot by a man from Bingham, who assured me that the species was not new to him—he called the bird by the local name "*Birwina prima*." Blasius reports the species in his catalogue for the sole reason that Giglioli gives the local name which I have mentioned above. Schembri also gives the species, but, according to Wright, it should be omitted from the list of our birds.

273. (275) *Chettusia leucura* (Licht.). The White-tailed Plover.

Local name : *Venewwa denba abjad*.

Wright records a specimen met with by him in the Valletta Market on the 18th of October, 1864, and another shot on some marshy ground at the head of the Grand Harbour on the 24th of October, 1869. The local name, which was suggested by the Hon. Dr. Magro, is only an equivalent of the Latin.

274. (276) *Vanellus vanellus* (L.). The Lapwing.

Local name : *Venewwa*.

Common during the autumn and winter, usually remaining with us till the beginning of spring. Large flocks are often observed arriving during very cold days towards the approach of winter. Wright records some shot as late as the 14th of April, and I have seen one taken during the first week of May.

275. (277) *Arenaria interpres interpres* (L.). The Turnstone.

Local name : *Monachella imperiali*.

Schembri says that a few individuals occur almost annually, and he records a plentiful passage during the spring of 1840. Wright says that the species is rather irregular and somewhat rare, occurring generally in May, August, and September, but he states that he has shot it also in December. It is undoubtedly of rare occurrence—so much so, in fact, that I have not seen more than six or seven in all.

276. (294) *Bartramia longicauda* (Bechst.). Bartram's Plover.

Local name : *Pluvierott ta denbu*.

Wright records the capture of a specimen on the 17th of November, 1865. The local name was suggested by the Hon. Dr. Magro.

277. (293) *Machetes pugnax* (L.). The Ruff.

Local name: *Ghirwiela*.

Occurring commonly on passage during the spring and autumn, a few being often met with during the winter as well; individuals in the full nuptial dress are of very rare occurrence, and I have not seen more than three.

278. (291) *Canutus canutus* (L.). The Knot.

Local name: *Ghirwiel rar*.

Very rare. Schembri states that he did not see more than two or three individuals; these were taken in January and February in winter dress. Wright records a specimen existing in the University Museum, but neither date nor locality is given. I have not yet succeeded in meeting with the species. Giglioli, besides the local name given, also mentions *Ghirwiel irmiedi*.

279. (292) *Calidris leucophæa* (Pall.). The Sanderling.

Local name: *Pispisella bajda*.

Wright records a specimen shot at Marfa and sent to him by Mr. Horne; he states that he had not met with the species before. I have two specimens in my collection, one of which was shot at Binghisa Point in August 1910; the other was obtained in the Valletta Market in the spring of 1913. In the spring of 1911 I saw a living specimen at the dealer's in St. John's Square, who called the bird by the local name here given.

280. (287) *Erolia alpina alpina* (L.). The Dunlin.

Local name: *Begazzina tat-tizz*.

Both Schembri and Wright state that this species is common during both the spring and autumn. I have met with it also during the winter, but do not consider it common at any time of the year.

281. (290) *Erolia ferruginea* (Brünn.). The Curlew-Sandpiper.

Local name: *Begazzina hamra*.

Occurs on passage towards the end of spring and the

beginning of summer, reappearing again in the autumn and at times during the winter as well; it seems to be found in considerable numbers in June. Wright records its occurrence also in July and August. I have never met with it during the latter month.

282. (288) *Erolia minuta minuta* (Leisl.). The Little Stint.

Local name: *Tertura*.

A fairly common species, which is met with practically from the beginning of spring to the middle or end of autumn, but it appears to occur more abundantly from April till June.

283. (289) *Erolia temminckii* (Leisl.). Temminck's Stint.

Local name: *Tertusa rara*.

Wright records several specimens obtained by him in various seasons, and Mr. Micallef, who showed me a specimen, informed me that he had mounted several others, which were obtained in September. I have not yet succeeded in securing a specimen for my collection, neither have I seen it on the wing or in the flesh.

284. (301) *Tringa hypoleuca* L. The Common Sandpiper.

Local name: *Begazzina tar-rocca*.

Pretty common during the spring and autumn, occasionally being met with during the summer. I remember years when, during this season, it occurred in abundance, but this I consider to be quite exceptional. Wright says that a few probably breed here in summer, but I have not been able to confirm this statement.

285. (300) *Tringa glareola* L. The Wood-Sandpiper.

Local name: *Pespus tal bahar*.

Occurs in pretty good numbers during the spring and autumn, some being met with also during the summer months. I remember several occasions when the species appeared to become scarce in the autumn, and during a whole season I did not observe a single bird. The species

is also known by the local name *Pespisella*, though this is often used by many as a generic name.

286. (299) *Tringa ochropus* L. The Green Sandpiper.

Local name : *Swejila*.

Fairly common, occurring in spring, summer, and autumn. Wright says that it is partial to inland situations, but I have never observed this.

287. (295) *Tringa totanus* (L.). The Common Redshank.

Local name : *Pluvierott*.

Common on migration during both seasons; solitary individuals are met with at other times as well. Schembri says it is common also in summer, but I have only observed it towards the end.

288. (296) *Tringa erythropus* (Pall.). The Spotted Redshank.

Local name : *Ciurett*.

Schembri says this species is not very common, and states that it is more frequently found during the spring, passing also in September; Wright repeats almost the same statement. From my personal experience I should say that these birds are now to be considered as very rare visitors—so much so, in fact, that I have not yet been able to secure a specimen for my collection, nor have I ever observed one on the wing or even in the flesh. There is a specimen in the University Museum which bears no date.

289. (297) *Tringa nebularia* (Gunner). The Greenshank.

Local name : *Cewcewa prima*.

This species cannot be said to be generally common, though occasionally it appears in fairly good numbers. It is more frequently seen during the spring and autumn, but during the other seasons it has been known to appear. Besides the local name given, we find in Schembri's catalogue *Ruffiana tal caccia*, and in Wright's *Cewcewa*; this, however, is used indifferently for the present species and the following, the other seems to have fallen into disuse.

290. (298) *Tringa stagnatilis* (Bechst.). The Marsh-Sandpiper.

Local name: *Cewcewwa seconda*.

Occurs on passage, together with the preceding. Wright says it is not very common, and I should say that at present it is undoubtedly very scarce. Schembri appears not to have realized the difference between this and the preceding species.

291. (282) *Phalaropus fulicarius* (L.). The Grey Phalarope.

Local name: *Barusa griza*.

I have never met with this species in Malta. Both Giglioli and Arrigoni degli Oddi, however, state that it has occurred here.

292. (281) *Phalaropus lobatus* (L.). The Red-necked Phalarope.

Local name: *Barusa*.

The only specimen known to have occurred in these islands is one which was shot by Prof. R. Falzon, who noted the occurrence in 'Il Naturalista Maltese' of 1890. The local name was taken by Prof. Tagliaferro from a fisherman, who, on being shown the above-mentioned specimen, stated he had seen a pair of these birds taken from the fish-ponds of Marsascirocco many years ago.

293. (280) *Himantopus himantopus* (L.). The Black-winged Stilt.

Local name: *Fras-servient*.

Schembri calls this species very common, saying that it occurs on passage in March, September, and October. Wright says it is not uncommon in March and April, appearing again in September and October. From my own observations I should say that, though it visits us during both seasons, it is by no means common, and of late years has become undoubtedly rare. Some sportsmen call this bird by the local name "*Cavalier*"; this, however, was once intended for the Oyster-catcher, which is to-day known by another local name.

294. (279) *Recurvirostra avocetta* (L.). The Avocet.

Local name: *Xifa*.

This is one of those rare species which visit us most irregularly. Schembri says that all the specimens seen by him were taken in May. Wright says that the species occurs about that time, but he also records a specimen shot out of a party of three on the 7th of November, 1860. I have seen one in midsummer, and the late Mr. Micallef mounted a specimen killed in the first week of January 1906.

295. (202) *Limosa lapponica lapponica* (L.). The Bar-tailed Godwit.

Local name: *Ghirwiel prim rar*.

Wright records a specimen taken by Mr. W. J. Ross on the 22nd of September, 1843, and he says that he is indebted for this information to Dr. Leith Adams, who told him also that the specimen is in the Derby Museum at Liverpool.

296. (203) *Limosa limosa* (L.). The Black-tailed Godwit.

Local name: *Ghirwiel prim*.

According to Schembri this species is rather common, occurring on passage in January. Wright says that it is not very common and is to be seen on passage in spring and autumn, being met with also in January and February. I have met with it only during the winter and at the beginning of spring, and consider it one of our scarcer birds.

297. (306) *Numenius arquata arquata* (L.). The Common Curlew.

Local name: *Gurlin*.

Very frequent, but never abundant; it occurs generally from July to September, but is to be met with also during the spring. I have observed a few individuals during the winter, but these must be considered quite exceptional. Besides the local name above given, I have heard it also called "*Gurlin prim*."

298. (304) *Numenius phæopus phæopus* L. The Whimbrel.
Local name : *Gurlin second*.

Appears to be a casual visitor ; I have met with it only during the winter. I have been informed that it occurs also on passage during the autumn and spring.

299. (305) *Numenius tenuirostris* Vieill. The Slender-billed Curlew.

Local name : *Gurlin terz*.

Occurring fairly commonly, together with its congeners. Both Giglioli and Blasius call this species by the local name *Gurlin second*, while *Gurlin terz* is given by them to the Whimbrel. As Wright justly remarks these two names are often given indiscriminately to both species, although I find that the majority of sportsmen and fowlers call the two species by the names given in this list.

300. (284) *Gallinago media* (Lath.). The Great Snipe.

Local name : *Beccacc ta Mejju*.

Schembri says that this species is common during May, and Wright that it is not uncommon in April and May, occasionally occurring also earlier, but he states that he never heard of it being observed during the autumn and winter. I, too, have met with the species only during the spring, and it is undoubtedly more frequently met with in May.

301. (285) *Gallinago gallinago* (L.). The Common Snipe.

Local name : *Beccacc*.

Occurring during the spring and autumn, but is never observed in any great numbers in the former season. It usually appears by the middle of February, specimens being often met with all through the month of May ; in autumn it is generally seen by the end of September, remaining with us for the whole of November, a few lingering here throughout December.

302. (286) *Limnocryptes gallinula* (L.). The Jack-Snipe.

Local name : *Cinconj*.

Occurring together with the preceding, and generally

still more common. Very often individuals linger here throughout the winter—in fact, I have seen specimens taken almost continually throughout that season. It generally departs a little before the Common Snipe in the spring.

303. (283) *Scolopax rusticola* L. The Woodcock.

Local name : *Gallina*.

This species occurs regularly during the autumn, but is generally considered scarce. The first arrivals are usually observed by the first week of October. The birds continue to be taken throughout November, and a few individuals winter also with us. I have seen specimens shot in March and September, and on one occasion saw one taken in August.

304. (307) *Hydrochelidon nigra nigra* (L.). The Black Tern.

Local name : *Cirlewwa seuda*.

Schembri considers this species common, saying that it occurs from September onwards. Wright states that it is occasionally seen in August ; he records a specimen shot by him from a flock of three on Fort Manoel on the 23rd of July, 1859. In the fifth appendix to his list he mentions a large number which visited our harbour in July 1870, and which remained here until the end of September. From my own observations I should say that the species is met with only occasionally—in fact, I have not seen more than two or three specimens, and have not yet succeeded in securing one,

305. (309) *Hydrochelidon leucopareia leucopareia* (Temm.). The Whiskered Tern.

Local name : *Cirlewwa bil mustacci*.

Schembri says that, although this species is not common, individuals are taken during the summer almost every year. Wright, who considers it uncommon, states that it visits us in spring, summer, and autumn ; he records a specimen in his collection shot on the 16th of May, 1860, and, in the second appendix to his list, mentions others obtained in the third week of May, 1865.

306. (308) *Hydrochelidon leucoptera* (Temm.). The White-winged Black Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa tar-rebbigha*.

This species occurs on passage during both seasons, but seems to be more common during the spring. I have seen individuals also during the summer, but consider such occurrences as unquestionably rare. The local name was given to me by Mr. Micallef, who stated that he had known the species always by that name.

307. (314) *Sterna anglica anglica* Mont. Gull-billed Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa tal' Inghilterra*.

The first mention of this species in Malta was made by Wright, who, in the second appendix to his list, records three specimens in the adult breeding-plumage killed in May 1864. I have seen a specimen mounted by Mr. G. Debono, of Musta, and shot by him in the spring, and have one in my collection presented to me by the same gentleman, who shot it at the Salina on the 16th of April, 1914.

308. (313) *Sterna caspia* Pall. The Caspian Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa prima*.

In the fourth appendix to his list Wright records a specimen shot by him near Fort Manoel on the 21st of May, 1869, and states that he had been informed of the capture of another at the same time. I have seen three specimens in Mr. Micallef's collection; these were shot at the Salina in the spring of 1901. Giglioli gives "*Cirlewwa*" as the local name for this species; but this is only a generic name.

309. (312) *Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis* Lath. The Sandwich Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa hamra*.

Schembri says that flocks of these birds are seen here annually at the approach of winter. According to Wright, a few are at times noticed during both autumn and winter.

I have never seen a specimen either on the wing or in the flesh. I know, however, of the existence of a mounted specimen in the possession of Mr. Micallef, from whom I obtained the local name.

310. (311) *Sterna dougallii dougallii* Mont. The Roseate Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa rosa*.

In the winter of 1912 Mr. Micallef asked me to identify three of these birds which he called by the local name given above; these were shot at the fish-ponds of Marsascirocco. I have also been informed that another specimen was lately taken at the Salina, but this I have not seen.

311. (310) *Sterna hirundo* L. The Common Tern.

Local name: *Huttafa tal bahar*.

Schembri considers these birds rather rare, and says that they occur towards the end of summer and at the beginning of autumn. Wright states that a few are seen in the spring, autumn, and winter. I consider the species rare and generally occurring late in the summer. I have, however, a specimen in my collection which was given to me by Mr. R. Smith, who shot it on the 24th of May, 1913. In many lists the simple generic name *Cirlewwa* is given to this species, but I prefer the one given above, which I have obtained from several sportsmen and fishermen.

312. (315) *Sterna minuta minuta* L. The Little Tern.

Local name: *Cirlewwa sghira*.

In Schembri's list this species is given on the authority of others. Wright records a specimen shot by Mr. Medlycott, and a pair seen by himself at St. Paul's Bay in August 1855. I have seen two mounted specimens in Mr. Micallef's collection, and came across one in the flesh in the market in the spring of 1909; this was in such an advanced state of decomposition that it could not be preserved.

313. (320) *Larus minutus* Pall. The Little Gull.

Local name: *Gawwja zyghira*.

Schembri considered this species rather common, stating that it occurs here from September to November. Wright, too, says that it is common in some years, and states that in a few hours he succeeded in shooting as many as nine or ten, while he could have shot more. At present the species is unquestionably of very rare occurrence—in fact, I have not yet succeeded in observing a single example.

314. (317) *Larus ridibundus* L. The Black-headed Gull.

Local name: *Gawwja rasha sewda seconda*.

Schembri says that this species is common during the winter, and Wright states that it associates with *L. melanocephalus*, but is by no means so common. I have been assured by many that it is met with annually during the winter. But I must confess that though I have looked for it most carefully, I have not yet succeeded in detecting it.

315. (318) *Larus melanocephalus* Temm. The Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.

Local name: *Gawwja rasha sewda*.

This is the common Gull of Malta. It is to be seen in pretty large numbers in our harbours. The local name appears in Giglioli's avifauna, and, although this indicates the black head of the species, I have very rarely met with it when it has assumed that dress.

316. (319) *Larus ichthyaëtus* Pall. The Great Black-headed Gull.

Local name: *Gawwja imperiali*.

Giglioli says that Wright included this species amongst the Birds of Malta on the authority of Tristram, but there were doubts about its occurrence, for the specimen could not be traced. On the 11th of March, 1909, I saw a specimen which Mr. Micallef asked me to identify; it was taken on

a hook by some fishermen who were a little to the south of Biughisa reef. The local name was given to the species by Mr. Micallef.

317. (321) *Larus canus canus* L. The Common Gull.

Local name : *Gawwja tas-sigiar*.

This species is, according to Schembri, common here in autumn and winter. Wright repeats Schembri's statement, and mentions a specimen in the University Museum in the fifth appendix to his list; he says that he possesses a specimen taken on the 18th of December, 1865. I have not yet succeeded in seeing the bird. I have been assured, however, by Mr. Micallef that an example was shot by him in the vicinity of Gargur, and that he called it by the local name (which means Tree-Gull), because he saw the individual alighting several times on the carob-trees.

318. (324) *Larus argentatus cachinnans* Pall. The Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.

Local name : *Gawwja prima*.

This species, which is frequently seen in our harbours during the winter, is one of our breeding birds. It has been reported by both Schembri and Wright as *Larus argentatus*, but from their notes it appears quite evident that they alluded to the present form.

319. (325) *Larus fuscus fuscus* L. The Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Local name : *Gawwja seconda*.

Schembri considers this species common during the winter, and Wright states that it is rather rare; he also records some specimens seen by him, and a pair shot by Mr. Medlycott and Lieut. Sperling, R.N. From my own observations I cannot call it common, for although single specimens are to be seen mingled with the other Gulls during the winter, I also know of several seasons when not a single individual could be observed.

320. (322) *Larus gelastes* Thienem. The Slender-billed Gull.

Local name : *Gawwja rosa*.

Wright states that he believed he had seen this species several times flying about the harbour, but he never succeeded in shooting one; he also mentioned two locally-taken specimens in the University Museum. The local name I obtained from Mr. Micallef, who mounted a specimen shot in the Marsamuschetto Harbour about twenty-five years ago.

321. (323) *Larus audouini* Payr. Audouin's Gull.

Local name : *Gawwja ghedduma ahmar*.

Reported by Wright, who was informed by Tristram that the species had been observed by him in Malta. I, too, have been informed by Mr. Micallef that he handled a specimen some years ago, and he called it by the local name.

322. (316) *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* (L.). The Kittiwake.

Local name : *Gawwja tal' Inghilterra*.

Schembri records a specimen taken from the Grand Harbour in 1843, and Wright another shot by Mr. Medlycott in Marsamuschetto Harbour on the 22nd of February, 1873.

323. (327) *Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temm.). The Pomatorhine Skua.

Local name : *Ciefa ta denba*.

Schembri includes the species in his catalogue on account of a specimen which was brought to him from a distance of twenty miles to the north of Malta, and Wright in his fifth appendix to the list of Maltese birds says that the specimen reported by him as *S. catarrhactes*, which was shot at the Salina in 1860, was really *S. pomatorhinus*. I, too, have fallen into a mistake by including *S. catarrhactes* in my list of 1915, being unaware at the time of the correction made by Wright in 1874.

324. (321) *Alca torda* L. The Razorbill.

Local name : *Mustal bahar*.

Wright in his fifth appendix says that he had the opportunity of examining the specimen taken many years before, which gave rise to the admittance of the Guillemot into the list of Maltese birds, and this turned out to be a young Razorbill. The species is undoubtedly of casual and rare occurrence, though we have some records when it has visited us in relatively large numbers. Mr. Micallef, for instance, once obtained thirty-four specimens during a single season. I have two in my collection ; one is a young of the year, which I picked up in the Valletta Market on the 3rd of January, 1912 ; the other, which is an adult in full plumage, was taken on a hook at a distance of two or three miles to the north of Gozo on the 12th of June of the same year. The local name was given to the species by the late Prof. Tagliaferro. Owing to a misprint, it appears in my list of 1915 as *Tus*, which was evidently intended for *Mus*, meaning "knife."

325. (332) *Uria troille troille* (L.). The Common Guillemot.

Local name : *Bughaddas rar*.

I remember seeing a mounted specimen when I was quite a boy, and I remember too that the bird was said to have been taken alive from the Grand Harbour in a very severe winter. The local name I heard from the possessor of the specimen in question. My friend Mr. L. Cachia Zammit assures me that about ten or twelve years ago these birds visited us in fairly large numbers, and he shot six or seven of them. On the 17th of January, 1911, I met with a specimen in the Valletta Market ; this was taken at Bahau ic-ciaghac the day before. It is now in my private collection.

326. (333) *Alle alle* (L.). The Little Auk.

Local name : *Blongiun tat-tempesti*.

On the 27th of January, 1912, I procured a specimen

which was exposed for sale in the Valletta Market ; it was taken alive at the Salina the day before. On the day following, the same poulterer presented to me another specimen which he said was picked up dead at the same locality. Both are now in my collection. The local name is the one which was used by the man from whom I bought the birds.

327. (334) *Fratercula arctica arctica* (L.). The Puffin.

Local name : *Purcinella tal bahar*.

Schembri records the capture of a specimen by Sig. Baldassare Ellul in November 1832, and Wright simply repeats Schembri's statement. I have seen more than ten specimens taken in these islands, and have also a pair in my collection which I procured from the market. The first, which is an adult in full plumage, was taken at the Salina on the 10th of January, 1910 ; the second, an immature specimen, at Marsascirocco on the 4th of January, 1915.

328. (259) *Otis tarda tarda* L. The Great Bustard.

Local name : *Pitarrun*.

Schembri records the occurrence of several individuals during a north-westerly gale in 1835, and a specimen shot at Marfa by the Governor, Major-General Sir Frederic Cavendish Ponsonby. This, he says, was preserved in the Public Library. Wright calls the species rare, and states that every two or three years one of these birds is shot—chiefly in Gozo ; he also records the capture of five individuals. I have seen a pair which were taken on the 17th of October, 1899. There is a specimen in the University Museum. This is probably the one which was shot by the Governor at Marfa. It is, unfortunately, at present in a miserable state.

329. (260) *Otis tetrax* L. The Little Bustard.

Local name : *Pitarra*.

Schembri says that this species is as rare as the preceding, and records some individuals also taken by Governor Ponsonby. Wright does not consider it as rare as its larger

congener, and records one shot in October 1862. I have seen two or three mounted specimens, and handled two in the flesh: of these, one is in Col. Francia's collection, the other is in mine; both of them were shot during the spring, in which season they seem more frequently to occur.

330. (261) *Chlamydotis undulata undulata* Jacq. The Houbara Bustard.

Local name: *Ghubara*.

Schembri records an individual met with on Corradino hill by Signor G. Borg Madiona in 1841. There is a mounted specimen in the University Museum which is said to have been obtained by Mr. W. Grant from Gozo in 1866. I saw a live specimen in a shop at Marsa in the spring of 1910. I am afraid, however, that this was an imported bird, though people pretended that it was taken locally in a net.

331. (257) *Megalornis grus grus* (L.). The Common Crane.

Local name: *Grawwa*.

According to Schembri, a few of these birds appear almost annually at the approach of winter. Wright says that a few appear also annually during the spring and autumn, and occasionally during the winter. He records a specimen shot on the 13th of December, 1866, and another in March of the following year. I consider the species of almost annual occurrence, but generally rare. I have met with it at almost all seasons; it is, however, more frequently seen during the spring and autumn. In one day of November 1912 I observed these birds passing in thousands, when a good number of them were killed. Besides the Maltese name, the species is also known locally as *Airm*. As this is, however, also given to the Common and Purple Herons, I prefer the one which I have used—besides, this is also the one commonly met with.

332. (258) *Anthropoides virgo* (L.). The Demoiselle Crane.

Local name: *Damigella*.

According to Schembri, these fine Cranes occur in our

islands every now and then, and he also records one killed by Governor Ponsonby and another taken on Corradino, but he does not give the date. Wright states that only two or three specimens are on record, the last being that killed in March 1861. I have never seen this Crane on the wing or in the flesh, but have seen a mounted specimen in Mr. Micallef's establishment, which was taken in these islands a few years ago.

333. (253) *Crex crex* (L.). The Land-Rail.

Local name : *Gallozz*.

A common species during both seasons, more abundant, however, during the spring. Schembri states that these birds arrive a little before the Quails during both passage seasons.

334. (250) *Porzana porzana* (L.). The Spotted Crake.

Local name : *Gallozz second*.

Occurs on passage together with the preceding. It is also generally common, though I remember various seasons when it was very scarce. It is usually most plentiful in March and April.

335. (252) *Porzana parva* (Scop.). The Little Crake.

Local name : *Gallozz terz*.

According to Schembri, during the autumn only few of these birds are seen ; in the spring, however, they occur in good numbers. Wright repeats practically the same statement, and adds that they are often met with in low humid localities at the head of the Grand Harbour. At present the species is unquestionably rare—so much so, in fact, that I have only obtained one specimen.

336. (251) *Porzana pusilla intermedia* (Herm.). Baillon's Crake.

Local name : *Gallozz rar*.

No mention is made of this species by Schembri. Wright says that it is probably commoner than it is generally considered to be ; he also records several specimens taken in

the islands. From my own experience I consider it rare and of occasional occurrence, and I have only met with it three or four times.

337. (249) *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus* L. The Water-Rail.

Local name : *Gallozz tax-xitua*.

Schembri says that the species is common, and is met with usually in the winter. Wright says that it is not very common in spring and autumn, some remaining through the winter months. I consider it as a scarce migrant during both seasons, and during the winter I have only once met with it.

338. (254) *Gallinula chloropus chloropus* (L.). The Moor-Hen.

Local name : *Gallozz tal Germania*.

A common migrant during both seasons. I have often met with a dozen or more in a single day at the Valletta Market, especially in April and May.

339. (255) *Fulica atra atra* L. The Coot.

Local name : *Tigiegia tal bahar*.

Schembri says that this species is common along our shores in August and September. According to Wright, it is common in spring and autumn, but more particularly in the latter season. I have met with it frequently enough during both seasons, but cannot say that it is more abundant in one season or in the other.

340. (256) *Fulica cristata* Gmel. Crested Coot.

Local name : *Tigiegia tal bahar tat toppu*.

Wright records a specimen killed by him in May 1859, and says that Dr. Gulia informed him of three others killed at Marsascala in February 1860 ; besides these, two or three other individuals have been taken, but I have never met with the species myself. The local name given by Giglioli is *Tiegiegia tal bahar prima*.

341. (248) *Coturnix coturnix coturnix* (L.). The Quail.
Local name; *Summiena*.

Though still common, this species is by no means so abundant as it used to be. It occurs on passage during both seasons. Some of those which arrive in autumn generally pass the winter with us. Schembri says that the Quail breeds here in May, and Wright says that it breeds in March. I have seen eggs as early as the first days of the latter month, and have met with others still unhatched in June.

XXVII.—*Birds in the Ancre Valley during the Winter of 1916–1917.* By Lieutenant J. N. KENNEDY, M.C., R.G.A., F.R.G.S., M.B.O.U.

(Text-figure 4.)

THE river Ancre is a tributary of the Somme, rising in the Bapaume plateau and finding its way down the southern slopes of the watershed through a long irregular valley, the general trend of which is south-west and south. The chalk country which it drains is of a gently undulating and open nature with few high hills, and rises but seldom more than 500 feet above sea-level. Above Miraumont the Ancre is little more than a ditch which is usually dry except after heavy rain. Below this village it enters a deeper valley and, flowing between the Puisieux and Courclette ridges, it increases rapidly in volume. Below Grandcourt there is on either bank a belt of marshy ground which widens considerably between St. Pierre Divion and Aveluy, and there are here stretches of deep open water and extensive reed-beds interspersed with trees.

It was in this marshy tract that birds were most numerous, in spite of the fact that it received many of the shells intended for neighbouring roads. We were able to explore it in a punt constructed by stretching a canvas trench-cover over a rough wooden frame.

As I have already mentioned, the country in general is of